

ALBION FIRE DISTRICT, INC.

38 SCHOOL STREET

ALBION, RI 02802

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of Meeting: September 10, 2013

Present: Commissioner Michael Allen Commissioner Michael Napolitano

Commissioner Anthony Leone Commissioner Sharon Remillard

Commissioner Daniel Adamski Chief Richard Andrews

Deputy Chief Robert Valentine Tax Collector David Almond

Treasurer Raymond Neves Attorney Louis DeSimone

Call To Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Allen

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Leone made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 13, 2013 Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Napolitano. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Bills: All Commissioners have reviewed the bills and Commissioner Adamski made a Motion to approve the bills for payment, seconded by Commissioner Remillard. Motion passed 5-0.

Tax Collector's Report: Collections August 14, 2013 to September 10,

2013 \$5203.11. Collections November 1, 2012 to September 10, 2013 \$991,815.42. The new tax figures have been received.

Commissioner Leone made a Motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report, seconded by Commissioner Adamski. Motion passed 5-0

Treasurer's Report: Balance of Accounts \$497,937.69 and Register Balance \$490,892.92. The Treasurer is to contact the bank regarding the possibility of bumping up interest on Money Market Account. Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual was reviewed. The Treasurer is to meet with the Chief to review charges which may not be posted to the proper accounts.

The Audit Review was begun yesterday. The Treasurer contacted Navigant regarding a line of credit in anticipation of taxes but has not heard back from them. It was suggested that he contact the Town Credit Union since they handle this for other fire districts in Town.

Commissioner Napolitano made a Motion to place on the Agenda for vote at the Annual Meeting

Establishing a \$50,000 line of credit in anticipation of taxes as an emergency mechanism should funds be lacking due to the proposal to change the tax payment schedule from annual to semi-annual, seconded by Commissioner Remillard. Motion passed by vote of 4-1 with Chairman Allen voting Nay.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Commissioner Leone, seconded by Commissioner Adamski. Motion passed 5-0

Chief's Report: There were 79 calls in August with 71 in District and 8 Mutual Aid. Training hours for month were 135 and YTD 1545. Repairs were made to cab tilt motor on S-21 as well as replacing the alternator and generator on S-21.

Quotations for renovations of the station sleeping quarters average \$37,000 and the Chief is requesting that this be put on the Agenda for the Annual Meeting at \$40,000. This renovation is necessary so that we meet NFPA Code 1500 and the NFPA Life Safety Code. A second Resolution would be to shingle the roof. Quotes are averaging \$16,000 and the Chief requests a Resolution at \$18,000

Motion to place items on Agenda for vote at the Annual Meeting made by Commissioner Leone, seconded by Commissioner Adamski. Motion passed by vote of 5-0

Motion to Amend the Agenda to review Preliminary 2013/2014 Budget and Tax Rate made by Commissioner Napolitano, seconded by Commissioner Leone. Motion passed by vote of 5-0.

The budget will be discussed in detail at our Special Meeting – Budget Hearing scheduled for

September 24, 2013 but discussion by Commissioners was necessary prior to this Hearing.

Preliminary Budget is complete with a 3% increase based on new valuations. Because surplus was used for the last three years it is necessary to bring budget even with the tax levy. Increase in budget is mainly for part-time employees to insure that we can respond with adequate personnel within our District and provide proper personnel on the apparatus.

Proposed new tax rates are as follows:

Residential \$1.50

Commercial \$1.75

Tangible \$3.00

Motor Vehicles \$1.10

Returning to Chief's Report, the Chief advised that a charge of \$599 is required for us to register to apply for and receive Federal Grants.

Regarding Grievance: Violation of Article 11 Pension, the Chief advised that this grievance will be held in abeyance commencing 8/14/13 and ending 8/14/14.

Motion to accept the Chief's Report as amended made by Commissioner Leone, seconded by Commissioner Remillard. Motion passed 5-0

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Committee Reports: Motion to amend Agenda for report of Town-wide Consolidation Meeting made by Commissioner Napolitano, seconded by Commissioner Remillard. Motion passed 5-0. This was necessary due to the fact that notice of this meeting was not received until September 6, 2013.

Chairman Allen advised that he attended a Meeting held September 9, 2013 for which he received notification only three days prior. Meeting was with the Public Safety Committee of the Town Council and the Commissioners/Wardens of the Fire Districts to discuss Consolidation. In attendance were Warden Lacombe of Saylesville, Commissioner Allen of Albion, Chief Griffin of Lonsdale, Commissioner Rivet of Limerock. Not in attendance Quinville and Manville District Representatives.

Meeting was cordial and professional. The Town is proposing that an outside study be done with which Commissioner Allen disagrees. He proposes that the Ballot contain a vote to approve funds to do this study.

Chief Andrews advised that a town-wide department would be operated as an enterprise organization similar to the water

department and that Town Administrator Almond wants a plan in place before the matter is put on the Ballot.

Old Business: Additional discussion was held on the subject of split payment of tax bills and it was decided that any tax bill of \$200 or less would be required to be paid in full. Motion to place on the agenda for vote at the Annual Meeting made by Commissioner Adamski, seconded by Commissioner Napolitano. Motion passed 5-0

Good and Welfare:

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Motion to adjourn to Executive session called under RIGL42-46-5(a) 1 for discussion of Personnel Matter and RIGL42-46-5(a) 2 for discussion of pending litigation of Attorney General's Lawsuits made by Commissioner Adamski, seconded by Commissioner Napolitano. Motion passed 5-0

Open Session adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Motion to re-open the Open Session at 8:12 p.m. made by Commissioner Remillard, seconded by Commissioner Napolitano. Motion passed 5-0

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Motion to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session made by Commissioner Adamski, seconded by Commissioner Napolitano. Motion passed 5-0 No votes were taken in Executive Session except to approve the Minutes of the July 9, 2013 Executive Session.

Motion to close the Open Session at 8:13 p.m. made by Commissioner Leone, seconded by Commissioner Remillard. Motion passed 5-0

**Lois E. Moore
District Clerk**